

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY RABAT

UNCLAS ANKARA 9053

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, SWEL, TPHY, TU

SUBJ: PUBLIC STATEMENTS OF COMMERCE SECRETARY RICHARDSON

REF: ANKARA 9052

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT MADE BY COMMERCE
SECRETARY RICHARDSON UPON HIS ARRIVAL AT ANKARA AIRPORT
NOVEMBER 28: " GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:
I HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN ANKARA, AS YOU KNOW, AT THE
REQUEST OF PRESIDENT FORD TO SYMBOLIZE THE DEEP CONCERN
AND SYMPATHY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE TRAGIC
EARTHQUAKE THAT HAS JUST OCCURRED IN TURKEY. WE ARE
ALREADY ENGAGED IN TRYING TO ASSIST IN PROVIDING RELIEF
TO THE SUFFERING VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE, AND I HOPE
THAT MY VISIT HERE WILL IDENTIFY OTHER WAYS IN WHICH WE
CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE. (Q) MR. SECRETARY, OTHER THAN
THE EARTHQUAKE PROBLEM, ARE YOU GOING TO DISCUSS ANY
OTHER PROBLEMS WITH TURKISH MINISTERS? (A) I REALLY
CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT RANGE OF SUBJECTS WILL BE DISCUSSED.
I AM HERE OF COURSE NOW WITH THE MINISTRE OF TRADE,
WHO HAS BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO COME TO THE AIRPORT TO
GREET ME, AND I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT THERE WILL BE
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SUBJECTS OTHER THAN THE EARTHQUAKE SITUATION THAT

ARE DISCUSSED DURING THE TIME I AM HERE. BUT MY REASON FOR COMING IS, AS I SAID, TO ATTEST TO THE CONCERN AND SYMPATHY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND TO DISCUSS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE."

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RICHARDSON REMARKS TO JOURNALISTS AFTER MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER DEMIREL

MORNING OF NOVEMBER 29:

BEGIN TEXT: (Q) WHAT CAN YO TELL US ABOUT YOUR TALKS HERE, SIRE? (A) WE HAD A VERY GOOD AND I THINK VERY CONSTRUCTIVE CONVERSATION. I CONVEYED THE CONCERN OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES, WHICH PRESIDENT FORD HAD ALREADY COMMUNICATED IN WRITING TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE GOVERNMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER REVIEWED FOR THE AMBASSADOR AND ME THE ACTIONS THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN TAKEN TO COPE WITH THE DISASTER. IT HAS BEEN AN IMPRESSIVE OUTPOURING OF CONCERN AND CONSTRUCTIVE RESPONSE ON THE PART OF TURKISH PEOPLE THEMSELVES, AND THIS IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER WE WERE IMPRESSED BY. (Q) IS THIS AIR LIFT AND THIS AID PART OF AN EFFORT BY THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE CHILL OFF RELATIONS WITH TURKEY? (A) NO, IT IS REALLY AN EXPRESSION OF HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. THE AIR LIFT HAS BEEN, WE THINK, A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION AS PART OF A COORDINATED RESPONSE IN COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF TURKEY ITSELF, THE TURKISH RED CRESCENT ORGANIZATION AND THE UNITED NATIONS DISASTER RELIEF ORGANIZATION. WE'VE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH ALL OF THEM. THE UNITED STATES' CONTRIBUTION HAS BEEN PRIMARILY TO SUPPLY LARGE WINTERIZED TENTS; THESE ARE EQUIPPED WITH HEATERS. ALTOGETHER SOME 1100 TENTS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED TO THE AREA, TOGETHER WITH TWO HEATERS FOR EACH TENT THAT ARE CAPABLE OF BURNING ANY OF SEVERAL FUELS: KEROSENE, COAL OR WOOD. (Q) WHAT ABOUT THE SUBJECT OF RELATIONS AS A WHOLE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, THE MILITARY AID AND SO FORTH? (A) AFTER WE HAD COVERED THE SITUATION APPLICABLE TO THE EARTHQUAKE DISASTER ITSELF AND THE PRIME MINISTER HAD ASSURED US THAT EVERYTHING THAT HAS TO BE DONE IN ORDER TO COPE WITH THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE DISASTER HAS BEEN DONE, WE THEN TALKED GENERALLY ABOUT TURKISH-UNITED STATES

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RELATIONS. PERHAPS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO BE SAID HERE IS THAT WE RECOGNIZED ON BOTH SIDES THAT THE ENDURING ELEMENTS OF AMERICAN-TURKISH COOPERATION AND FRIENDSHIP WILL REMAIN AS FAR AHEAD AS WE CAN SEE AND THAT A CHANGE OF ADMINISTRATION IN ITSELF WILL NOT CHANGE THOSE UNDERLYING

REALITIES. WE TALKED ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUING COOPERATION. (Q) IS THERE ANY APPREHENSION HERE THAT THE

CARTER ADMINISTRATION WILL BE UNFRIENDLY TO TURKEY?

(A) I THINK THE SHORT ANSWER TO THAT IS, NO. THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS, I THINK, A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN ELECTORAL PROCESS, AND AS I SAID, THEIR BELIEF -- IT'S A BELIEF I SHARE ALSO -- IS THAT THE UNDERLYING REALITIES OF THE RELATIONSHIP WILL INFLUENCE THE CONDUCT OF THE POLICY OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATION AS THEY HAVE DETERMINED THE CONDUCT OF PAST ADMINISTRATIONS OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS. (Q) SIR, HAVE YOU ALSO TAKEN ANY OTHER SPECIFIC DECISIONS FOR FURTHER AID -- CONCERNING THE DISASTER, I MEAN? (A) I RAISED WITH THE PRIME MINISTER THE QUESTION OF WHETHER HE BELIEVES THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS IN WHICH WE CAN NOW BE USEFUL, BEYOND WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY DONE. AND HE ASSURED US THAT, IN TERMS OF COPING WITH THE IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY, THAT THERE IS REALLY ALL IN THE WAY OF RELIEF SUPPLIES IN THE AREA THAT ARE NEEDED. THERE IS ENOUGH FEED FOR THE CATTLE, ENOUGH FUEL; THERE ARE ENOUGH TENTS AND BLANKETS. THERE IS STILL A CONTINUING NEED FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THESE TO PLACES WHERE THEY ARE MOST NEEDED. BUT THE PROBLEMS THAT NOW REMAINS ARE PROBLEMS OF DETERMINING WHAT PEOPLE IN THE AREA MAY WISH TO MOVE OUT OF IT, THE PROBLEM OF TAKING CARE OF LIVESTOCK DURING THE WINTER, AND MAKING SURE THAT THE AVAILABLE SHELTER IS SUFFICIENT TO WITHSTAND THE COLD. AND BEYOND THAT, OF COURSE, THERE REMAINS THE LONGER TERM NEED FOR RECONSTRUCTION. AND I SIMPLY MADE CLEAR THE READINESS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO COOPERATE IN ASSISTING IN WHATEVER OTHER WAYS THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT MAY LATER DECIDE WE CAN BE HELPFUL. END TEXT.

3. FOLLOWING ARE SECRETARY RICHARDSON'S PRE-DEPARTURE REMARKS TO JOURNALISTS AT ANKARA AIRPORT AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 29: BEGIN TEXT: (Q) WE'D LIKE TO KNOW WHAT AID OFFERS YOU HAVE BROUGHT TO ANKARA FOR THE QUAKE VICTIMS, UNCLASSIFIED

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OR WHAT THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT SAID THEY NEED IN THE WAY OF FURTHER ASSISTANCE. (A) LET ME ANSWER FIRST WITH RESPECT TO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN DONE. UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF AMBASSADOR MACOMBER, THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AN AIRLIFT INTO THE VAN AIR FIELD, AND BY NOW THERE HAVE BEEN 40 FLIGHTS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT IN A TOTAL OF ONE MILLION, 200 THOUSAND POUND (543 METRIC TONS) OF RELIEF SUPPLIES. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE SUPPLIES ARE SOME 1,120 LARGE, WINTERIZED TENTS. THE TENTS ARE EQUIPPED WITH TWO HEATERS EACH, ONE FOR COOKING AND ONE FOR HEATING. THEY ARE COMFORTABLE IN TEMPERATURES DOWN TO MINUS 22 DEGREES CENTIGRADE. WE HAVE ALSO FLOWN INTO THE AREA TWO 47-MAN TEAMS TO INSTRUCT THE PEOPLE OF THE AREA IN PUTTING UP THE TENTS AND IN OPERATING THE HEATERS, WHICH CAN USE KEROSENE, COAL OR WOOD. AS PART OF OUR OWN AIRLIFT

AND ALSO TO ASSIST OTHER PLANES FLYING INTO THE AREA,
WE SENT IN A GROUND CONTROL TEAM WITH RADIO COMMUNICATIONS,
LIGHTS. . . . (Q) (INTERRUPTING) TO KEEP THE AIRPORT
OPEN? (A) . . . AND TO ENABLE IT TO OPERATE 24 HOURS A
DAY. AND THY4RE THERE, ALONG WITH SOME MATERIAL HANDLING
EQUIPMENT -- FORKLIFTS, TRUCKS -- TO HELP TMOVE THINGS FROM
THE PLANES. NOW THE SECOND PART OF THE QUESTION IS ON PRESENT
NEEDS. THE PRIME MINISTER SAYS THAT THE EMERGENCY REQUIRE-
MENTS IN THE AREA HAVE BEEN VERY FULLY MET. THERE IS ENOUGH
FOOD, THERE ARE ENOUGH BLANKETS, TENTS, OTHER RELIEF SUPPLIES.
AND THE PROBLEMS THAT NEED TO BE DEALT WITH NOW ARE THE
PROBLEMS OF THE POST-EMERGENCY PERIOD: TAKING CARE OF
THE CATTLE, DETERMINING WHICH INDIVIDUALS WISH TO REMAIN
IN THE AREA AND WHICH ONES WANT TO LEAVE, AND THEN OF COURSE
MOVING ON FROM THERE INTO RECONSTRUCTION. (Q) HAVE YOU
DISCUSSED ANY OTHER TOPICS BESIDES THE AID TO THE EARTHQUAKE
VICTIMS? (A) WE DISCUSSED THE OVER-ALL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN
OUR COUNTRIES. WE IDENTIFIED THE ENDURING FACTORS THAT
WILL CONTRIBUTE TO ASSURING THE CONTINUITY OF OUR RELATIONSHIP,
NOTWITHSTANDING THE CANGE OF ADMINISTRATIONS. THE PRIME
MINISTER POINTED OUT THAT OVER THE LAST 30 YEARS THERE
HAVE BEEN CHANGES OF GOVERNMENT IN BOTH COUNTRIES, BUT
DURING THOSE 30 YEARS THE FUNDAMENTAL BASIS OF FRIENDSHIP
AND COOPERATION HAS ENDURED. AND THE SAME REALITIES WHICH
HAVE SUSTAINED THIS FRIENDSHIP WILL CERTAINLY CONTINUE.

END TEXT.

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